

From: Richard Brown [tag_sckedd@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2005 7:05 PM
To: restructure.sizestandards@sba.gov
Subject: RIN 3245-ZA02

Jane Goodall's crew once dumped an entire weekly delivery of bananas in one pile, rather than distributing them over the chimpanzee's territory as had been the custom. The alpha-male immediately decided that pile was his and went absolutely berserk defending it from each and every member of the local population, even though the rest of the clan would go hungry and most of the pile would surely go to waste before he could consume it. Goodall expressed her utter dismay at discovering such human behavior among chimpanzees.

That spontaneous event, captured on film, starkly characterizes the efforts of the VC/big business community to remove the "Venture" from Venture Capital; and to access, monopolize and contravene the SBIR program. The consequences are grim to contemplate. Large, VC owned companies will be able to simply hire skilled proposal writers, some of them perhaps former SBIR staffers, to "milk the system;" as did some past participants who "made a good living off Phase I awards" with little or no intent to pursue commercialization unless the potential return exceeded some arbitrary cost/benefit metric. It took some time for SBIR to recognize and address that phenomenon, once proudly articulated to our group by a local university professor. That is a lesson that we need not relearn.

The system will also be easily exploited for the purpose of expanding the patent portfolios of big business, essentially concealed weapons with which to thwart subsequent inventors.

Successful predation and diversion of the SBIR program from its original mission will only hasten the decline, already in progress, of American industry and the engine, small business, that drives it.

Please protect and preserve what remains of SBIR/STTR, one of the most enlightened and successful of all federal programs, and one that is vital to the continuing creativity of American small business.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Richard E. Brown
Technical Applications Group (TAG)
South Central Kansas Economic Development District (SCKEDD)
209 E. William, Suite 300
Wichita, KS 67202-4012
Ph: 316-262-7035; Fax: 316-262-7062
Alternate e-mail: tag@sckedd.org

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
<http://mail.yahoo.com>